

Appl. No. 09/213,510
Amdt. dated November 18, 2004
Reply to Office Action of May 18, 2004

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 1, 11 and 16, and enter new claims 17, 18 and 19, as set forth in the following listing of the claims.

1. (currently amended) A display unit,
suitable for a vehicle, comprising:

a dial assembly and a display located in
a region of the dial assembly, the display comprising a liquid
crystal screen with a front polarizing filter located on a front
surface of the liquid crystal screen facing an observer, the dial
assembly comprising a dial plate having an optical waveguide
covered with a film with dial markings located on a front surface
of the dial plate facing the observer, wherein

the front surface of the liquid crystal
screen is arranged in the same plane as a front surface of the
optical waveguide, the front surface of the liquid crystal screen
contacting the front surface of the optical waveguide to form
therewith a continuous planar surface; and

the polarizing filter of the display is
arranged in the same plane as the film of the dial assembly, and

~~the display unit further comprises a first light source serving as a backlight to illuminate the dial plate, and a second light source serving as a backlight to illuminate the display.~~

2. (previously presented) The display unit as claimed in claim 1, wherein the liquid crystal screen of the display comprises a front panel arranged in a cutout in the dial plate.

3. (canceled)

4. (previously presented) The display unit as claimed in claim 1, wherein the film covers the dial plate and the display, comprises a scale in the region of the display, and serves as the polarizing filter.

5. (previously presented) The display unit as claimed in claim 2, wherein the display is attached by bonding or clipping in the cutout in the dial plate.

6. (previously presented) The display unit as claimed in claim 1, wherein the liquid crystal screen comprises a rear panel which is bonded to the back of the dial plate.

7. (previously presented) The display unit as claimed in claim 2, wherein the optical waveguide abuts an edge of the display; and

wherein the front panel of the display is connected to the optical waveguide so as to form a single component.

8. (previously presented) The display unit as claimed in claim 2, further comprising a support element located at the back of the dial plate; and

wherein the front panel of the display is fastened on the support element.

Claim 9 (canceled)

10. (previously presented) The display unit as claimed in claim 1, wherein the dial plate comprises plastic.

11. (currently amended) A display unit, suitable for a vehicle, comprising:

a dial assembly and a display located in a region of the dial assembly, the display comprising a liquid crystal screen with a front polarizing filter located in front of a front surface of the liquid crystal screen facing an observer, the dial assembly comprising a dial plate and a film with dial markings located on a front surface of the dial plate facing the observer, wherein the polarizing filter of the display is arranged in the same plane as the film of the dial assembly; and

wherein, the front polarizing filter of the liquid crystal screen connects to the dial plate film so as to form a single component with a continuous planar surface, and there is an empty space behind the front polarizing filter, and,

~~the display unit further comprises a first light source serving as a backlight to illuminate the dial plate, and a second light source serving as a backlight to illuminate the display.~~

12. (previously presented) The display unit as claimed in claim 11, wherein said empty space serves as a lightproof channel.

13. (previously presented) The display unit as claimed in claim 12, further comprising a frame for holding components of the liquid crystal screen.

14. (previously presented) The display unit as claimed in claim 13, wherein the frame includes the lightproof channel.

15. (previously presented) The display unit as claimed in claim 13, wherein the frame is bonded or clipped into a support of the dial plate.

16. (currently amended) A display unit, suitable for a vehicle, comprising:

a dial plate, a frame and a display, the display being located in a region of the dial plate and having a front surface, the display comprising a liquid crystal screen with a front polarizing filter, a front surface of the polarizing filter being the front surface of the display, the dial plate having a film thereon and constituting with the film a dial assembly, wherein

the front surface of the display, which faces an observer, is arranged in the same plane as a front surface of the dial assembly, which faces the observer, the front surface of the display contacting the front surface of the dial assembly to form therewith a continuous planar surface; and

wherein, in the contacting of the front surface of the display with the front surface of the dial assembly, the front polarizing filter of the liquid crystal

screen is spaced apart from the liquid crystal screen to form therewith and with the frame an empty space behind the front polarizing filter, said empty space serving with the frame as a light proof channel for light incident from a side of the display to facilitate a reading of the display unit, and,

~~the display unit further comprises a first light source serving as a backlight to illuminate the dial plate, and a second light source serving as a backlight to illuminate the display.~~

17. (new) The display unit as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a first light source serving as a backlight to illuminate the dial plate, and a second light source serving as a backlight to illuminate the display.

18. (new) The display unit as claimed in claim 11, further comprising a first light source serving as a backlight to illuminate the dial plate, and a second light source serving as a backlight to illuminate the display.

19. (new) The display unit as claimed in claim 16, further comprising a first light source serving as a backlight to illuminate the dial plate, and a second light source serving as a backlight to illuminate the display.